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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047126

AIDAC

SUBJECT: LAND REFORM

REF: MANILA 2640

1. AID/ W FOUND REFTEL ANALYSIS OF PRESENT LAND REFORM CONDIT-
IONS AND VARIABLES AFFECTING RATE OF IMPLEMENTATION LAND REFORM
MOST USEFUL. USAID/ MANILA COMPLIMENTED ON CLEAR AND INFORMATIVE
CABLE.

2. ACCEPTING MOST RECENT CENTRAL CHARACTERISTICS PHILIPPINE
LAND REFORM AS OUTLINED REFTEL AND SUBSEQUENT ANALYSIS IT
APPEARS THAT SITUATION REPRESENTS EITHER OF TWO OPTIONS:

A. TECHNOCRATS HAVE CONVINCED MARCOS TO PROCEED AT SLOWER
PACE WHILE EVALUATING ACTUAL FINANCIAL NEEDS AND IMPACT ON
ECONOMY VIS- A- VIS OTHER PRIORITY NEEDS OF OVERALL ECONOMY;
OR

B. POLITICAL/ ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS AVE FORCES MARCOS TO
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DECIDE LAND REFORM NOT IN BEST INTERESTS OF COUNTRY AT PRESENT TIME AND BEST WAY TO DOWNGRADE LAND REFORM IS NOT TO APPOINT STRONG LEADERSHIP AND DEFER UNTIL LATER NECESSARY ACTIONS WHICH HAVE TO BE TAKEN NOW.

3. IF OPTION A. IS ACCURATE REFLECTION OF PHILIPPINE INTENT, THEN AID/ W WOULD DISAGREE WITH MISSION OBSERVATION PER REFTEL PARA 3 " LAND REFORM CZAR AS SOME HAVE PROPOSED WOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS CONSISTENT WITH A STRETCHED- OUT EFFORT." IT APPEARS TO AID/ W THAT EVEN FOR A STRETCHED- OUT EFFORT A CENTRAL, WELL- COORDINATED GOP EFFORT IS MOST IMPORTANT AND THAT THIS MEANS ONE PERSON WITH SUFFICIENN STATUS AND CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT TO OVERSEE EFFORT. WITHOUT THIS CLEAR DIRECTION AND LEADERSHIP IT SEEMS LIKELY TRADITIONAL PHILLIPPINE PATTERN OF FRAGMENTED CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT WHICH LEADS TO INFIGHTING AND STAGNATION WOULD PREVAIL. HISTORICALLY THIS IS OFTEN CASE IN PHILIPPINES AND ONLY WHEN STRONG LEADERSHIP PROVIDED DO PROGRAMS MOVE IN TIMELY FASHION, AS HAS RURAL ELECTIIFICATION WITH DUMOL AT HEAD. THEREFORE, IF GOP SERIOUSLY INTENT ON SOUND LAND REFORM PROGRAM AID/ W BELIEVES THERE MUST BE STRONG GOP CENTRAL LEADERSHIP AS WELL AS ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT OF LAND REFORM ON PHILIPPINE ECONOMY AND PROJECTIONS OF PROGRAM COSTS AND REQUIREMENTS. IN ABSENCE OF THESE KEY ELEMENTS AID/ W FEELS GOP NOT SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN BONA FIDE LAND REFORM PROGRAM AND ACTUALLY INTENDS TO DOWNGRADE PROGRAM PER OPTION B. IF LATTER IS INTENT OF GOP THEN AID/ W WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE INTERESTED IN ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA.

4. IN ANY CASE BELIEVE PRESENT SITUATION NECESSITATES MODIFIED RESPONSE FROM U. S. IN TERMS OF ANCITICPATED ASSISTANCE TO LAND REFORM. THEREFORE, AID/ W PLANS FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

A. PROCEED THIS FISCAL YEAR WITH PHOTO LAB TECHNICIAN (GILLELAND) TDY FOR THREE MONTHS AND ALSO RECRUIT RESEARCH/ EVALUATION ADVISOR.

B. INCLUDE IN FY 74 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION LIMITED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT (APPROXIMATELY DOLS 200,000) TO SUPPORT SOUND INTERIM AND/ OR PREPARATORY LAND REFORM MEASURES CONTRACT SERVICES FOR RESEARCH/ EVALUATION, RURAL CREDIT, ETC.

C. FOR PRESENT BELIEVE ONLY ONE OF THREE POSITIONS (27-29)
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FOR LAND REFORM STAFF CAN BE JUSTIFIED UNTIL MISSION AND AID/ W

HAVE HAD TIME TO EVALUATE GOP INTENT IN LAND REFORM. SEPARATE CABLE FOLLOWS. BELIEVE GLEECK (POSITION NO. 30) SHOULD BE ASSIGNED AS CONSULTANT TO DIRECTOR, WORKING ON LAND REFORM AND OTHER MATTERS.

D. AID/ W PREPARED MAKE SHERPER AVAILABLE OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS FOR TDY TO ASSIST MISSION IN EVALUATING LAND REFORM EFFORT AND PLANNING APPROPRIATE AID.

E. AID/ W WILL INCLUDE MENTION OF LAND REFORM IN FY 74 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION AS AREA OF GOP ACTIVITY AND POSSIBLE AREA OF U. S. LOAN ASSISTANCE.

F. PER PARA 3 D REFTTEL, WE HAVE STRONG PREFERENCE NOT TO BE DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE LAND TRANSFER ASPECT OF PROGRAM. POSSIBLE FUTURE AID COULD BE RELATED TO INDIRECT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS EFFECTS OF LAND REFORM PROGRAM OR DIRECTLY TO PROJECTS WHICH SUPPORT GOP LAND REFORM EFFORT. GDS. ROGERS

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